

St. George Orthodox Church

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THE VOICE

of St. George



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The Apostles' Fast

(Saints Peter & Paul Fast)

Observed beginning June 15th until June 28th Oca.org

The Orthodox year has a rhythm, much like the tide coming in and going out - only this rhythm is an undulation between seasons of fasting and seasons (or a few days) of feasting. Every week, with few exceptions, is marked by the Wednesday and Friday fast, and every celebration of the Divine Liturgy is prepared for by eating nothing after midnight until we have received the Holy Sacrament.

It is a rhythm. Our modern world has lost most of its natural rhythm. The sun rises and sets but causes little fanfare in a world powered and lit by other sources. In America, virtually everything is always in season, even though the chemicals used to preserve this wonderful cornucopia are probably slowly poisoning our bodies.

The Scriptures speaks of the rhythms of the world - "the sun to rule by day... the moon and stars to rule by night..."

The rhythm of the Church does not seek to make us slaves of the calendar nor does it treat certain foods as sinful. It simply calls us to a more human way of living. It's not properly human to eat anything you want, anytime you want. Even Adam and Eve in the Garden initially knew what it was to abstain from the fruit of a certain tree.

Orthodox do not starve when they fast - we simply abstain from certain foods and generally eat less.

At the same time we are taught to pray more, attend services more frequently, and to increase our generosity to others (alms).

But it is a rhythm - fasts are followed by feasts. The fast of the Apostles begins on the second Monday after Pentecost and concludes on the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul on June 29. Most of Christendom will know nothing of any of this - that Eastern Christians will have begun a Lenten period while the world begins to think of vacations.

The contemporary God is much the same as the contemporary diet - we want as much of Him as we want - anytime, anywhere. There is no rhythm to our desire, only the rise and fall of passions. There is no legalism in the Orthodox fast. I do not think God punishes those who fail to fast. I believe that they simply continue to become less and less human. We will not accept the limits and boundaries of our existence and thus find desires to be incessant and unruly. It makes us bestial.

For those who have begun the fast - may God give you grace! For those who know nothing of the fast - may God give you grace and preserve from a world that would devour you. May God give us all the mercies of His kindness and help us remember the work of His blessed apostles!

A History of the Apostles' Fast



"The Apostles almost always fasted."

Saint John Chrysostom (Sermon 57 on the Gospel of Matthew)

Testimony of the Fathers Concerning the Fast

The fast of the holy Apostles is very ancient, dating back to the first centuries of Christianity. We have the testimony of St. Athanasius the Great, St. Ambrose of Milan, St. Leo the Great and Theodoret of Cyrrhus regarding it. The oldest testimony regarding the Apostles Fast is given to us by St. Athanasius the Great (†373). In his letter to Emperor Constance, in speaking of the persecution by the Arians, he writes: *"During the week following Pentecost, the people who observed the fast went out to the cemetery to pray"*. *"The Lord so ordained it"* says St. Ambrose (†397), *"that as we have participated in his sufferings during the Forty Days, so we should also rejoice in his Resurrection during the season of Pentecost. We do not fast during the season of Pentecost, since our Lord Himself was present amongst us during those days ... Christ's presence was like nourishing food for the Christians. So too, during Pentecost, we feed on the Lord who is present among us. On the days following his ascension into heaven, however, we again fast"* (Sermon 61). St. Ambrose basis this practice on the words of Jesus concerning his disciples in the Gospel of Matthew 9:14, 15: *"Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come, when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast."*

St. Leo the Great (†461) says: *"After the long feast of Pentecost, fasting is especially necessary to purify our thoughts and render us worthy to receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit ... Therefore, the salutary custom was established of fasting after the joyful days during which we celebrated the resurrection and ascension of our Lord, and the coming of the Holy Spirit."*

The pilgrim Egeria in her Diary (fourth century) records that on the day following the feast of Pentecost, a period of fasting began. The Apostolic Constitutions, a work no later than the fourth century, prescribes: *"After the feast of Pentecost, celebrate one week, then observe a fast, for justice*

demands rejoicing after the reception of the gifts of God and lasting after the body has been refreshed."

From the testimonies of the fourth century we ascertain that in Alexandria, Jerusalem and Antioch the fast of the holy Apostles was connected with Pentecost and not with the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul on June 29. In the first centuries, after Pentecost there was one week of rejoicing, that is Privileged Days, followed by about one week of fasting.

The canons of Nicephoros, Patriarch of Constantinople (806-816), mention the Apostle's Fast. The Typicon of St. Theodore the Studite for the Monastery of Studios in Constantinople speaks of the Forty Days Fast of the holy Apostles. St. Symeon of Thessalonica (†1429) explains the purpose of this fast in this manner: *"The Fast of the Apostles is justly established in their honor, for through them we have received numerous benefits and for us they are exemplars and teachers of the fast ... For one week after the descent of the Holy Spirit, in accordance with the Apostolic Constitution composed by Clement, we celebrate, and then during the following week, we fast in honor of the Apostles."*

Duration of the Fast

The Fast of the Apostles came into practice in the Church through custom rather than law. For this reason, there was no uniformity for a long time, either in its observance or its duration. Some fasted twelve days, others six, still others four, and others only one day. Theodore Balsamon, Patriarch of Antioch (†1204), regarding the Apostles' Fast, said: *"All the faithful, that is the laity and the monks, are obliged to fast seven days and more, and whoever refuses to do so, let him be excommunicated from the Christian community."*

From the work On Three Forty Days Fasts, which is credited to a monk of the monastic community of St. Anastasios the Sinaite (6th or 7th century), we learn that the Fast of the holy Apostles lasted from the first Sunday after Pentecost to the feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God on August 15. Later, however, the Fast of the Dormition was separated from it and the month of July was excluded from the Fast of the Apostles. St. Symeon of Thessalonica speaks of the Apostles' Fast as of one week's duration.

In the Orthodox Church the Fast of the holy Apostles lasts from the day after the Sunday of All Saints to the 29th of June, the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul. This fast may be of longer or shorter duration depending upon which day Pascha is celebrated. According to the Old Calendar it could last from as little as 8 days to as many as 42 days depending on the date of Pascha, but this is shortened by the New Calendar which sometimes obliterates the Fast altogether. If the feast of Pascha occurs sooner, then the Apostles' Fast is longer; if Pascha comes later, then the Apostles' Fast is shorter.

Prescription for the Fast

The Fast of the Apostles is somewhat more lenient than the Great Fast before Holy Week and Pascha. The Kievan Metropolitan George (1069-1072) approved the Rule for the Kiev Caves Monastery which does not allow meat or dairy products to be eaten during the Apostle's Fast. On Wednesday and Friday, they prescribed dry food, that is, bread and water or dry fruits. On Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday they permitted fish, wine, and oil. In addition to this, they directed that one hundred prostrations (profound bows to the ground) be made daily, excepting Saturdays, Sundays, and holy days (the Feast of the Birth of John the Baptist falls on June 23rd and fish, oil, and wine are permitted no matter the day). This rule was transferred to Russia via the Kiev Caves Monastery who based their rule on that of the Monastery of Studios in Constantinople. We can thus assume this was the rule for the Fast practiced by both the Roman Empire and the Russian Empire. This is the rule still practiced today with minor variations among the Orthodox Churches.

NATIVITY (*BIRTH*) OF THE PROPHET, FORERUNNER, AND BAPTIST JOHN JUNE 24TH

The Nativity of the Holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John: The Gospel (Luke 1: 5) relates that the righteous parents of St John the Baptist, the Priest Zachariah and Elizabeth (September 5th), lived in the ancient city of Hebron. They reached old age without having children, since Elizabeth was barren. Once, St Zachariah was serving in the Temple at Jerusalem and saw the Archangel Gabriel, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. He predicted that St Zachariah would father a son, who would announce the Savior, the Messiah, awaited by the Old Testament Church. Zachariah was troubled, and fear fell upon him. He had doubts that in old age it was possible to have a son, and he asked for a sign. It was given to him, and it was also a chastisement for his unbelief. Zachariah was struck speechless until the time of the fulfillment of the archangel's words.

St Elizabeth came to be with child, and fearing derision at being pregnant so late in life, she kept it secret for five months. Then her relative, the Virgin Mary, came to share with her Her own joy. Elizabeth, "filled with the Holy Spirit," was the first to greet the Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. St John leaped in his mother's womb at the visit of the Most Holy Virgin Mary and the Son of God incarnate within her.

Soon St Elizabeth gave birth to a son, and all the relatives and acquaintances rejoiced together with her. On the eighth day, in accordance with the Law of Moses, he was circumcised and was called John. Everyone was amazed, since no one in the family had this name. When they asked St Zachariah about this, he motioned for a tablet and wrote on it: "*His name is John.*" Immediately his tongue was loosed, and St Zachariah glorified God. He also prophesied about the coming into the world of the Messiah, and of his own son John, the Forerunner of the Lord (Luke. 1: 68-79).

After the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ and the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, wicked king Herod gave orders to kill all male infants. Hearing about this, St Elizabeth fled into the wilderness and hid in a cave. St Zachariah was at Jerusalem and was doing his priestly service in the Temple. Herod sent soldiers to him to find out the abode of the infant John and his mother. Zachariah answered that their whereabouts were unknown to him, and he was killed right there in the Temple. Righteous Elizabeth continued to live in the wilderness with her son and she died there. The child John, protected by an angel, dwelt in the wilderness until the time when he came preaching repentance, and was accounted worthy to baptize the Lord.

Apostles Peter and Paul

(*Boutros and Boulos*)

June 29th (our combined Pan-Orthodox celebration is at St. George at 10am)

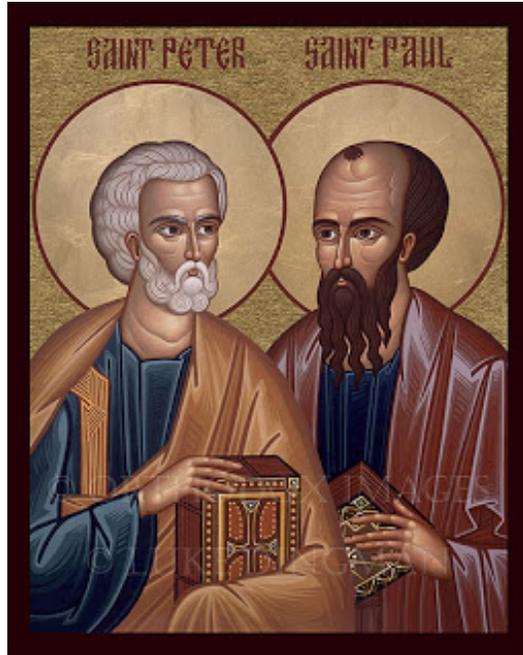
The hymns for their Feast speak of Saints Peter and Paul as leaders (*koryphaioi*), and chiefs of the Apostles. They are, without a doubt, the foremost in the ranks of the Apostles.

The *koryphaioi* were leaders of the chorus in ancient Greek tragedy. They set the pattern for the singing, and also for the dance movements and gestures of the chorus. Before Sophocles, there were twelve members of the chorus, and Sts Peter and Paul were the leaders of the twelve Apostles.

Both St Peter and St Paul received new names, indicating a new relationship with God. Simon the fisherman became known as Cephas (John 1:42), or Peter after confessing Jesus as the Son of God (Mt.16:18).

St Peter, the brother of St Andrew, was a fisherman on the sea of Galilee. He was married, and Christ healed his mother-in-law of a fever (Mt.8:14). He, with James and John, witnessed the most important miracles of the Savior's earthly life.

Despite his earlier recognition of Christ as the Son of God, he denied Him three times on the night before the Crucifixion. Therefore, after His Resurrection, the Lord asked Peter three times if he loved Him. Then He told Peter to feed His sheep (John 21:15-17).



After the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, St Peter addressed the crowd (Acts 2:14), and performed many miracles in Christ's name. He baptized Cornelius, the first Gentile convert (Acts 10:48). He was cast into prison, but escaped with the help of an angel (Acts 5:19). St Peter also traveled to many places in order to proclaim the Gospel message. He wrote two Epistles, which are part of the New Testament.

St Peter was put to death in Rome during the reign of Nero. According to Tradition, he asked to be crucified upside down, since he did not feel worthy to die in the same manner as his Lord.

St Paul was of the tribe of Benjamin, and lived in Tarsus in Cilicia. He once described himself as a Hebrew, an Israelite of the seed of Abraham (2 Cor. 11:22). He was also a Pharisee and a tent-maker (Acts 18:3) who had studied the Law with Gamaliel at Jerusalem. At first, he was called Saul and had persecuted the Church. He was present at the stoning of St Stephen (Acts 7: 58). Then, on the road to Damascus, he was converted when Christ appeared to him. Blinded by the vision, he was healed when Ananias laid his hands on him. After his cure, he was baptized (Acts 9:18).

St Paul preached the Gospel in Greece, Asia Minor, and in Rome, and wrote fourteen Epistles. Tradition says that he was martyred in Rome about the year 68.

Prophet Elias (*Elijah*)

July 20th

The Holy Prophet Elias is one of the greatest of the prophets and the first dedicated to virginity in the Old Testament. He was born in Tishba of Gilead into the Levite tribe 900 years before the Incarnation of the Word of God.

St Epiphanius of Cyprus gives the following account about the birth of the Prophet Elias: "When Elias was born, his father Sobach saw in a vision angels of God around him. They swaddled him with fire and fed him with flames." The name Elias (the Lord's strength) given to the infant defined his whole life. From the years of his youth he dedicated himself to the One God, settled in the wilderness and spent his whole life in strict fasting, meditation and prayer. Called to prophetic service, which put him in conflict with the Israelite king Ahab, the prophet became a fiery zealot of true faith and piety.

During this time the Israelite nation had fallen

away from the faith of their Fathers, they abandoned the One God and worshipped pagan idols, the worship of which was introduced by the impious king Jereboam. Jezebel, the wife of king Ahab, was devoted to idol worship. She persuaded her husband to build a temple to the pagan god Baal, which led many Israelites away from the worship of the true God. Beholding the ruin of his nation, the Prophet Elias began to denounce King Ahab for impiety, and exhorted him to repent and turn to the God of Israel. The king would not listen to him. The Prophet Elias then declared to him, that as punishment there would be neither rain nor dew upon the ground, and the drought would cease only by his prayer. Indeed, the word of Elias was a torch (Eccles. 48: 1) The heavens were closed for three and a half years, and there was drought and famine throughout all the land.

During this time of tribulation, the Lord sent



him to a cave beyond the Jordan. There he was miraculously fed by ravens. When the stream Horath dried up, the Lord sent the Prophet Elias to Sarephta to a poor widow, a Sidonian Gentile who suffered together with her children, awaiting death by starvation. At the request of the prophet, she prepared him a bread with the last measure of flour and the remainder of the oil. Through the prayer of the Prophet Elias, flour and oil were not depleted in the home of the widow for the duration of the famine. By the power of his prayer the prophet also performed another miracle: he raised the dead son of the widow.

After the end of three years of drought the Merciful Lord sent the prophet to appear before King Ahab, and promised to send rain upon the earth. The Prophet Elias told the king to order all of Israel to gather upon Mount Carmel, and also the priests of Baal. When the nation had gathered, the Prophet Elias proposed that two sacrificial altars be built: one for the priests of Baal, and the other for the Prophet Elias who served the True God.

The Prophet Elias told them to call on their gods to consume the sacrificial animals with fire, and he would call on his. Whichever was first to send fire on the sacrifice would be acknowledged as the true God. The prophets of Baal called out to their idol from morning till evening, but the heavens were silent.

Towards evening the holy Prophet Elias built his sacrificial altar from twelve stones, the number of the tribes of Israel. He placed the sacrifice upon the wood, gave orders to dig a ditch around the altar and commanded that the sacrifice and the wood be soaked with water. When the ditch had filled with water, the prophet turned to God in prayer. Through the prayer of the prophet fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, and even the water. The people fell down to the ground, crying out: "Truly, the Lord is God!" Then the Prophet Elias had all the pagan-priests of Baal put to death, and he began to pray for rain. Through his prayer the heavens opened and an abundant rain fell, soaking the parched earth.

King Ahab acknowledged his error and repented of his sins, but his wife Jezebel threatened to kill the prophet of God. The Prophet Elias fled into the Kingdom of Judea

and, grieving over his failure to eradicate idol worship, he asked God to let him die. An angel of the Lord came before him, strengthened him with food and commanded him to go upon a long journey. The Prophet Elias traveled for forty days and nights and, having arrived at Mount Horeb, he settled in a cave.

The Lord told him that the next day Elias would stand in His presence. There was a strong wind that crushed the rocks of the mountain, then an earthquake, and a fire, but the Lord was not in them. The Lord was in "a gentle breeze" (3 Kings 19: 12). He revealed to the prophet, that He would preserve seven thousand faithful servants who had not worshipped Baal.

Later, the Lord commanded Elias to anoint Elisha into prophetic service. Because of his fiery zeal for the Glory of God the Prophet Elias was taken up alive into Heaven in a fiery chariot. The Prophet Elisha received Elias's mantle, and a double portion of his prophetic spirit.

According to the Tradition of Holy Church, the Prophet Elias will be the Forerunner of the Dread Second Coming of Christ. He will proclaim the truth of Christ, urge all to repentance, and will be slain by the Antichrist. This will be a sign of the end of the world.

The life of the holy Prophet Elias is recorded in the Old Testament books (3 Kings; 4 Kings; Sirach/Ecclesiastes 48: 1-15; 1 Maccabees 2: 58). At the time of the Transfiguration, the Prophet Elias conversed with the Savior upon Mount Tabor (Mt. 17: 3; Mark 9: 4; Luke. 9: 30).

Orthodox Christians of all times, and in all places, have venerated the Prophet Elias for centuries. The first church in Russia, built at Kiev under Prince Igor, was named for the Prophet Elias. After her Baptism St Olga (July 14) built a temple of the holy Prophet Elias in his native region, at the village of Vibuta.

In iconography the Prophet Elias is depicted ascending to Heaven in a fiery chariot, surrounded with flames, and harnessed to four winged horses. We pray to him for deliverance from drought, and to ask for seasonable weather.

Great Martyr Christina

July 24th

The Martyr Christina lived during the third century. She was born into a rich family, and her father was governor of Tyre. By the age of 11 the girl was exceptionally beautiful, and many wanted to marry her. Christina's father, however, envisioned that his daughter should become a pagan priestess. To this end he placed her in a special dwelling where he had set up many gold and silver idols, and he commanded his daughter to burn incense before them. Two servants attended Christina.

In her solitude, Christina began to wonder who had created this beautiful world. From her room she was delighted by the stars of the heavens and she constantly came back to the thought about the Creator of all the world.

She was convinced, that the voiceless and inanimate idols in her room could not create anything, since they themselves were created by human hands. She began to pray to the One God with tears, entreating Him to reveal Himself. Her soul blazed with love for the

Unknown God, and she intensified her prayer all the more, and combined it with fasting.

One time Christina was visited by an angel, who instructed her in the true faith in Christ, the Savior of the world. The angel called her a bride of Christ and told her about her future suffering. The holy virgin smashed all the idols standing in her room and threw them out the window. In visiting his daughter Christina's father, Urban, asked her where all the idols had disappeared. Christina was silent. Then, having summoned the servants, Urban learned the truth from them.

In a rage the father began to slap his daughter's face. At first, the holy virgin remained quiet, but then she told her father about her faith in the One True God, and that she had destroyed the idols with her own hands. Urban gave orders to kill all the servants in attendance upon his daughter, and he gave Christina a fierce beating

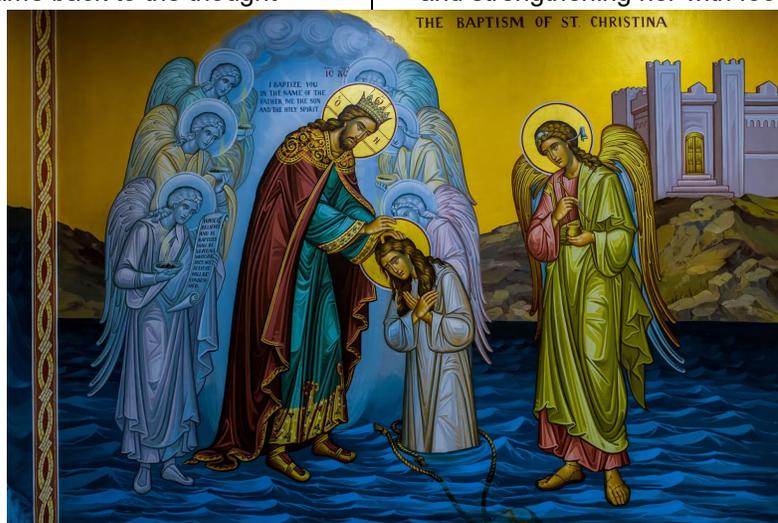
and threw her in prison. Having learned about what had happened, St Christina's mother came in tears, imploring her to renounce Christ and to return to her ancestral beliefs. But Christina remained unyielding. On another day, Urban brought his daughter to trial and urged her to offer worship to the gods, and to ask forgiveness for her misdeeds. Instead, he saw her firm and steadfast confession of faith in Christ.

The torturers tied her to an iron wheel, beneath which they lit a fire. The body of the martyr, turning round on the wheel, was scorched on all sides. They then threw her into prison. An angel of God appeared at night, healing her wounds and strengthening her with food. Her father,

seeing her unharmed, gave orders to drown her in the sea. An angel sustained the saint while the stone sank down, and Christina miraculously came out of the water and reappeared before her father. In terror, the

torturer imputed this to sorcery and he decided to execute her in the morning. That night he himself suddenly died. Another governor, Dion, was sent in his place. He summoned the holy martyr and also tried to persuade her to renounce Christ, but seeing her unyielding firmness, he again subjected her to cruel tortures. The holy martyr was for a long while in prison. People began to flock to her, and she converted them to the true faith in Christ. Thus about 300 were converted.

In place of Dion, a new governor Julian arrived and resumed the torture of the saint. After various torments, Julian gave orders to throw her into the furnace and lock her in it. After five days they opened the furnace and found the martyr alive and unharmed. Seeing this miracle take place, many believed in Christ, and the torturers executed St Christina with a sword.



Daily Prayer Life

- ◆ We pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Archimandrite Elias** Bitar (+May 21st, relative of Jeanette Nassif and Kh. Leslee Abud), **Helga** Lamb (+April 30th, mother of Rick, owner of Swartz Funeral Home), **Yacoub** Zureikat (+May 10th, father of Sahar Abdallah and Dr. George), **Farida** Andoni (+May 16th, sister-in-law of Basil Andoni), **Gaylord** Mannor (May 19th, father of Cindy Zureikat), **Fran** Khoury (+May 19th, relative of Evelyn Delbridge), and **Maryellen** Jensen (+May 20th, friend of Jeanette Nassif).

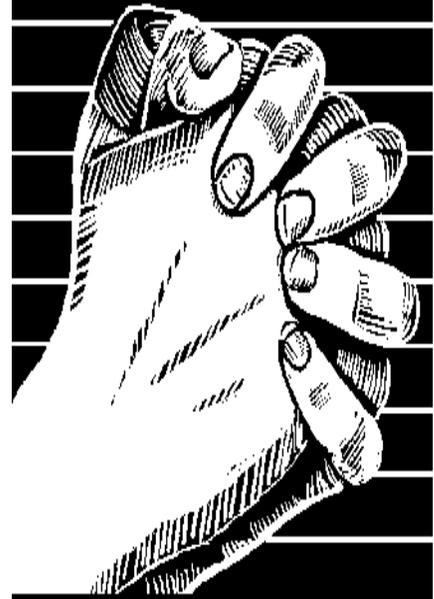
May their memory be eternal!

- ◆ Remember our parishioners and those who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Metropolitan Paul** and **Archbishop John** who are in captivity, **Sahar** Abdallah, **Anwar** Abueita, **Eman** Abufarha, **Wadia** Albaba, **Naila** Banna, **Emil J.** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Micheline** El-Chaer, **Vera** Farah, **Elias** Gantos, **Phyllis** Good, **Shawna** Hale, **Donald** Hawkins, **Daisy** Isaac, **Nawal** and **Nimer** Iseid, **Nakhleh** Khoury, **Nicola** Khoury, **George** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Deborah** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **William** Sophiea Jr, **Lois** Teunion; *all first-responders and medical personal, those working on a COVID-19 cure, those suffering in the Middle East and City of Flint; the supporters and benefactors of St. George, the members of our Parish Council, Ladies Auxiliary, Teen SOYO, Altar Servers, Altar Society, Chanters, Choir, Church School, OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship), Preschool Ministry, and Ushers.*
- ◆ Remember the servants of God who are with child: **Renea** (Rakan) Bayouk, **Andrea** Jones [daughter of Nasri and Carol Haddad], and **Katie** (Philip) Quackenboss [daughter of Bill and Sue Shaheen].

➤ *Please update Fr. Joe if the following should remain on our prayer list!*

- ◆ Remember the friends of St. George parishioners: **Kinan** Turjman (nephew of Sahar Abdallah), **Mother Nektaria**, **Nancy** Maes, **Bryan** Stewart, **Gerry** Alcorn, **Alyssa** Coon, **Aaron** Avery, **Cindy**, **Bryan** and **Heather** Campbell, and **Kristi** Kraxner (family/friends of Dn. Mike and Pam Bassett), **Michel** Abuaita (father of Mary Khoury), **Mariam** Ghanim (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Youssef** and **Georgette** Damouni (parents of Lina Burbar and May Gantos), **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janett Abuaita), **Nihad** Bannura (cousin of Jane Abu-Eita), **Abdulnour** Hanna (brother of the Hanna, Elias, Joubran families), **Maha** Qassis and **Nadia** Ibrahim (sister/mother of Ziyad), **Karen** Howder (mother of Claire Saadeh), **Shafeka** Qurpan and **George** Ishak (mother/nephew of Amira Hanna), **Joann** (Haddad) Merrelli (former parishioner), **Philip** Jones (brother of Dannie Jones), **James** Gorr (father of Dr. Melissa Bathish), **Husam** Rishmawi (cousin of Fadi Rishmawi), **Elias** Ibrahim and **Taghrid** (uncle/friend of Rula Alkazaha), **Mary** Khal and **Hanna** Abu-Nimer (relatives of Karam and Aida Nassar), **Sandra** Fromather (cousin of Diana Rishmawi), **Scott** Lints (friend of Mary Jo Ghattas), **Tom** Ellenburg (friend of Sally Joseph) **Alan** Laberge and **McKenzie** McClure (friends of Elaine Shaheen), **Saliba** Musleh (father of Julianna Abuaita), **Ibtisam** Odeh (cousin of Elham Ishak), **Megan** Meade and **Casey** Webb (relatives of Bob and Lois Teunion), **Sanaa** Alqassis (former parishioner), **Eva** Saseen (daughter of Nicholas), **Averie** Fisher (niece of Sandy Thomas), **Vicki** Toma (sister of Fr. Joe), **Dominique** Vasquez (friend of Areen Bathish), **Imad** Isaac (friend of St. George), Dr. **Usama** Albedd (Sally Abuaita's brother), and **Nabil** Andoni (brother of Vera Daoud).

PRAYER



REQUESTS

Congratulations and God bless:



College Graduates

Majd Abuaita

- ❖ University of Michigan-Flint with a Bachelor of Science in Biology
- ❖ Son of Khaled and Sally

Miar Abu-Aita

- ❖ University of Michigan-Flint with a Bachelor Degree in Health Science
- ❖ Daughter of George and Amal

Emil Bathish

- ❖ Northern Michigan University with a Bachelor Degree in Nursing
- ❖ Son of Amer and Melissa

Rania Fanous

- ❖ Kettering University with a degree in Business Administration
- ❖ Daughter of Boulos and Nihal
- ❖ Future plans include an International Affairs Master's Degree

Christine Krinock

- ❖ St. Luke School with a Bachelor Degree in Nursing.
- ❖ Daughter of Ayman and Wafaa

Jake Long

- ❖ Central Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Exercise Science and Kinesiology
- ❖ Son of Michael and Stephanie; grandson of Sally Joseph

High School Graduates

Ramy Abueita

- ❖ Genesee High School, Salutatorian
- ❖ Son of Atalah and Anaam
- ❖ Will attend Michigan State University

Alona Abufarha

- ❖ Flushing High School
- ❖ Daughter of Maher and Abla
- ❖ Will attend Wooster University in Ohio

Lindsey Bathish

- ❖ Brighton High School
- ❖ Daughter of Amer and Melissa
- ❖ Will attend Michigan State University

Marina Elia

- ❖ Powers High School
- ❖ Daughter of Antoine and Lina

George Ishaq

- ❖ Grand Blanc High School
- ❖ Son of Issa and Rasha

Alex Edward Joseph

- ❖ Goodrich High School
- ❖ Son of John and Christina
- ❖ Will attend Adrian College and play baseball

Victoria Benson

- ❖ Goodrich High School
- ❖ Daughter of Monica

Mariana Yacoub

- ❖ Grand Blanc High School
- ❖ Daughter of Adnan and Ghada

❖ **Basil Andoni** who recently retired after 50 years of work!



- ❖ **Martin, Jennifer** {daughter of Najwa Joubran}, and newborn **Ava Khoshaba** (May 10th).
- ❖ **Rakan, Renea**, and newborn **Joelle Grace Bayouk** (May 25th).

Announcements

FASTING DISCIPLINE FOR JUNE The traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, cheese, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, or their by-products*) is observed on Wednesday, June 3rd and Friday, June 5th. There is no fasting (*all food and drink may be consumed*) during the week following Pentecost (June 7th-13th). On Monday, June 15th following All Saints Sunday (June 14th), we begin the Apostles' Fast until our celebration of the foremost of the Apostles Peter and Paul on June 29th. The traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, cheese, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, or their by-products*) is observed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and *fish, wine, and olive oil* are allowed on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

FASTING DISCIPLINE FOR JULY The traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, cheese, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, or their by-products*) is observed on all Wednesdays and Fridays.

RE-OPENING OF ST. GEORGE

God willing, we will be reopening our church as soon as our stay-at-home order expires! It will be a gradual reopening depending on the number of faithful allowed to attend. Fr. Joe, Dn. Michael, and our Parish Council have begun work on the details. More information will be in Fr. Joe's weekly emails. If you do not get them, we do not have your email address. Please email Fr. Joe (nija@aol.com) and you will be added to our parish list (your email will not be shared with anyone and you will only receive church related information).

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN Please mark your calendars and come help feed the hungry during our once-a-month commitment at the Soup Kitchen on Saturday, June 5th from 9am-12:30pm. If you have questions or want to sign-up, please contact Goni Ishak (810-449-6599).

GRAVE BLESSINGS This normally takes place on Pentecost Weekend (this year, June 6th-7th). However, with the stay-at-home order, this will be postponed until it expires. If you would like Fr. Joe to bless the graves of your departed loved ones, please contact him to schedule it.

FINANCES AT St. George

As you can imagine, if people cannot come to church, then they are not as inspired to offer to the church. Some of our faithful ~ and even friends of St. George who never lived here ~ have stepped up and donated! NOW IS THE TIME FOR OUR ST. GEORGE FAMILY TO STEP UP! Offerings/Donations can be sent to the church or made online at our website by debit or credit card, electronic fund transfer from a bank account, or by text (see attached). You can even setup automatic offerings/donations. Right now, we do not have any outside help (hall rentals, Pre-school, or fundraisers). It is only us ~ our St. George Family. **DONATE NOW** at this link:

<https://app.easytithe.com/app/giving/saintgeorgeflint>.

The United States Census happens every 10 years and it's THIS YEAR!

WHAT IS THE CENSUS?

The Census is a simple form used to count everyone living in the United States and make sure government resources are distributed equally.

WHO WILL BE COUNTED?

Citizens and non-citizens of all ages living in the U.S., including children.

WHEN?

It started in March 2020, households should have received a letter from the U.S. Census Bureau with instructions on how to fill out the survey online.

WHY IS THE CENSUS IMPORTANT?

Your survey response will help your community get its fair share of government resources for housing, schools, roads, health care, and more. Additionally, Census data is used to determine how many representatives our communities have in Congress. It's important for every household to complete the Census because each response gives us an accurate count of what our families need.

HOW TO BE COUNTED?

Complete the 9-question form that takes approximately 10 minutes and submit your survey online. Legally, the Census Bureau cannot share your information with anyone. Your answers are submitted anonymously, and personal information such as where you live and who lives in your home will be kept safe.

The Census will NOT ask you for:

- Immigration Status
- Social Security Number
- Drivers License number

Questions about the Census? Call the Arab-American Heritage Council (AAHC) at 810-235-2722 or email: staff@aahcflint.org.

Thank you and God bless ...

Sally Shaheen Joseph for this post on Facebook:

Attended my church on line again this morning. Even waited for breakfast until it was over. I see only around six people actually participating in the church. Father Joe, Deacon Michael, one sub-deacon, and three or four chanters/choir participants. I even tried to sing my part in spite of no longer being able to remember the alto part or even having the ability to project my voice any longer. But not being able to attend is no longer an option. I love watching the Liturgy even if is only on my computer.

What I do have a problem with is parishioners who always supported their church no longer assisting it financially. The buildings still need to be maintained, the Priest and his family still need to eat, consumers bills must still be paid, etc. There is no reason for most parishioners to stop sending in their assistance. Most of our people are not paupers and most of them have previously been good about supporting the church. If you want it and them to still be there for all of us, PLEASE do not forget to make arrangements to support our church ... This will not last forever. And I, for one, would feel much better if we all did whatever we can do to make sure we still have them there for all of us when this pandemic is behind us. Sorry for the rant, but someone needs to get a handle on it and I ... think something should be said.



SAVE THE DATE!

The Pan Orthodox Churches of Genesee County
VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL
"Feasts of the Theotokos"

August 11th, 12, & 13 from 6:00pm—8:00pm
St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church
2439 S Long Lake Rd, Fenton, MI 48430

AGES 4 TO 14 WELCOME

- ✝ Icon Making
- ✝ Lessons
- ✝ Worship
- ✝ Liturgics
- ✝ Activities
- ✝ Snacks
- ✝ Stump the Priest



REGISTRATION FORM TO FOLLOW!

Namedays, Birthdays and Anniversaries

June 1 to July 31, 2020

Birthdays

June

- 1** Khader AbuAita
- 2** Raed N. Abuaita
- 3** Bissan H. Abufarha
- 5** Khaled Al-Khoury
Monica L. Benson
Salim E. Hanna
Tia R. Khoury
- 6** Emil J. Bathish
- 8** Ola J. Alqazaha
Amany F. Rishmawi
Eyad "Eddy" G. Rishmawi
- 9** Mary Ibrahim
Khalil I. Isaac
Amjad "Jim" Ishak
Shadine Kokaly
Alana M. Smith
Camela "Cam" R. Takach
- 10** Nadine Khoury
- 11** George J. David
Saher N. Helal
Giries I. Odeh
- 12** Maximus R. Abuaita
Celena R. Al-Sahuri
Rania A. Fanous
Casandra Hayek
George Ishaq
Nawa Mitri
Mariane F. Rishmawi
Habib Skafi
- 13** Benan "Ben" I. Burbar
- 14** Sandra R. Al-Sahuri
Roger Isaac
Taghrid "Terry" Isaac
- 15** Jihad I. Abufarha
Nicholas T. David
- 16** Nadya Abdella
Angelina B. Abuaita
Michael Khal
- 19** Anthony K. Abuaita

- Najeb Abuaita
Mejhdy J. Abu-Aitah
Josiana A. Yacoub
- 20** Heather Nassar
Zaina D. Qumseya
- 21** Haleena E. Abueita
- 22** Izis L. Helal
- 23** Nermeen Abuaita
George Abu-Aita
Elias E. Abueita
Dina G. Maymoun
Reese M. Salim
Nina T. Smith
- 24** Soad Abuaita
Erika K. Iseid
- 25** Theresa "Babe" L. Farah
Mila N. Mitri
Fadi O. Rishmawi
- 26** Amira Abdallah
Youssif Abousamra
Alona Abufarha
Samira M. Al-Sahuri
Marc A. Smith
- 27** George E. Gagne
Claire E. Saadeh
- 28** Mary Deligorges
- 29** Areen Bathish
Alex E. Joseph
Paul E. Takach
Ghada F. Yacoub
- 30** Levi W. Cooper

July

- 2** Jubrael Rishmawi
- 3** Anna Maria M. Abdallah
- 5** Tawfiq Abu Aita
Ryan T. Brunner
- 7** Vera N. Banks
- 8** Jane Alatrash
- 9** Liam J. Cooper
Elise G. Lane
- 10** Muna F. Abuaita
Lina Burbar

- 11** Peter J. Farah
- 12** Boulos Fanous
Shawki "Hanna" Khoury
Renee Mitri
- 13** William I. AbuFarha
Roger S. Saadeh
Basam Shomali
- 14** Bahira Assaf
Logan J. David
Goni Ishak
Michael J. McCann
George A. Yacoub
- 15** Melissa Ibrahim
Cezar H. Khair
Omar Nassar
- 16** Marcela N. Alyatim
Gary M. Monkaba
Daniel Rodriguez
Susan "Sue" P. Shaheen
- 18** Cezar G. Abu-Aita
Danial E. Mitri
- 19** Henry M. Burch
Jacqueline M. Joseph
- 20** David J. Gantos
Zahra Hayek
Nibal I. Helal
- 21** Eline Abueita
Mark S. Andoni
Vera Farah
- 22** Maroun Alatrash
Maya R. Jaraysa
Ronald Reed
- 23** Mary Alyateem
Osama N. Rabadi
- 24** Rubina AbuAita
Karim Al-Khoury
Jacob W. Harrison
Evette A. Rishmawi
- 25** Julia A. Ishak
Michael "Mike" S. Rishmawi
- 27** George Masaad
- 28** Sahara M. Al-Atrash

God Grant You All Many Years!

- 28 Kathleen "Kathy" L. Kudray
- 29 Zane T. Farah
- 30 Elias J. Fanous
Jordan T. Wood
- 31 Crystal A. Abdallah
Michael Hayek
Simon D. Khouri

- Rodny Elias Helal
- Elias Rishmawi
- Alek (Elias) Roger Saadeh
- Elias Skafi
- 23 Lauren (Theresa) Terese Gantos
- 24 Chrissy (Christina) Lynn Abueita
Christina Marie Andoni
Kristina Kamelia Cooper
Christina Deligorges
Ambur (Christina) Kristine Haddad
Christina Nassar
Logan Kristina Salomon
- 26 Atallah "Arthur" Yacoub Abueita
Issa "Chris" Yacoub Abu-Eita
Inam Yacoub Bathish
Rakan Yacoub Bayouk
Liam Jakob Cooper
Laith (Yacoub) George Maymoun
- 31 Joseph "Fr. Joe" Michael Abud
Fadi Youssef El-Chaer

- 22 Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Salim
- 26 Mr. and Mrs. Nasri Abdallah
Mr. and Mrs. George AbuAita
- 27 Mr. and Mrs. Iyad Isaac

Namedays

June

- 1 Mejhdy Juston Abu-Aitah
- 2 Lana Grace Elia
- 4 Martha Shahin
- 9 Abbey (Abigail) Cheyenne Lawrence
Jessica (Rhoda) Rosette Saadeh
- 21 Julian Majdi Alkazaha
- 27 JoAnn M. Hawkins
- 29 Devin Boulos Bathish
Jeffrey "Jeff" Paul Farah
Peter Jacob Farah
Branden Boutros Jones
Ellis "Al" Paul Salim
Richard "Ric" Paul Shahin
- 30 Jarrett (Martin) Marshall Lane

July

- 1 Angelina Basel Abuaita
Angelina AbuFarha
Angela Renee Andres
Angela Donia Qazaha
- 11 Olga Nassar
- 13 Alona Abufarha
Gabrielle David
Gabrielle (Gabriel) Kira Gantos
- 16 Julia Amjad Ishak
Julia Lamia Qazaha
Julie Kristine Salim
- 20 Elias Suheil Abuaita
Elias Emil Abueita
Ramy Abueita
Issa AbuFarha
Rakan Abusaada
Elias Jeries Fanous
Elias "Louie" Gantos
Salim Elias Hanna
Eli Rodny Elias Helal

June

- 4 Mr. and Mrs. Maher Alatrash
Mr. and Mrs. Khalil Isaac
- 6 Mr. and Mrs. Dannie Jones
- 7 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Silpoch
- 8 Mr. and Mrs. Rene Hanna
- 10 Mr. and Mrs. Raed Abuaita
- 11 Mr. and Dr. Amer Bathish
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hawkins
- 12 Mr. and Mrs. Elias Mitri
- 13 Mr. and Mrs. Danial Mitri
- 14 Mr. and Mrs. Danny Andoni
Mr. and Mrs. Nasri Haddad
- 15 Mr. and Mrs. Nimer Iseid
- 16 Mr. and Mrs. Khader AbuAita
- 17 V. Rev. and Mrs. Joseph M. Abud
Mr. and Mrs. Ibrahim Abufarha
- 18 Mr. and Mrs. Issa Abuaita
- 19 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ghattas
- 21 Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Thomas

July

- 2 Mr. and Mrs. Najeb Abuaita
- 3 Mr. and Mrs. Khaled Abuaita
- 4 Mr. and Mrs. Issa Ishaq
Dr. and Mrs. Saed J. Sahouri
- 6 Mr. and Mrs. George Farah Jr.
- 7 Mr. and Mrs. Raed AbuAita
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Monkaba
- 9 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Abdallah
- 10 Mr. and Mrs. Sami Abuaitah
Mr. and Mrs. Atallah Abueita
- 14 Mr. and Mrs. Jamal Abuaita
Mr. and Mrs. Khaled Abuaita
Mr. and Mrs. Jose Ramirez
- 15 Mr. and Mrs. Sami Abufarha
- 21 Mr. and Mrs. George Mitri
- 23 Mr. and Mrs. Fares Abdallah
Mr. and Mrs. Fadi Rishmawi
- 24 Mr. and Mrs. George Abu-Aita
- 25 Mr. and Mrs. George Nassif
- 26 Mr. and Mrs. Benan Burbar
- 29 Mr. and Mrs. Suheil Abuaita
- 30 Mr. and Mrs. Elia Abuaita
Mr. and Mrs. Majdi Alkazaha
- 31 Mr. and Mrs. Adeeb Bathish
Mr. and Mrs. Amjad Ishak

Wedding Anniversaries

God Grant You All Many Years!

June

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 Martyr Justin the Philosopher	2	3	4 Mary and Martha, sisters of Lazarus	5	6 North End Soup Kitchen 9am-12:30pm Soul Saturday Divine Liturgy 10am Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm
7 Descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost <i>with Kneeling Prayers</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13 Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm
14 All Saints	15 Apostles' Fast Begins	16	17	18 Parish Council 6:15pm	19	20 Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm
21 Saints of North America	22	23	24	25	26	27 Mary and Joanna the Myrrh-bearers Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm
28 Finding of the Relics of Cyrus and John the Unmercenary	29 Chief Apostles Peter and Paul Combined Pan-Orthodox Divine Liturgy at St. George 10am	30 Twelve Holy Apostles chosen by Christ				

2020

July

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 Angelina of Serbia	2	3	4 North End Soup Kitchen 9am-12:30pm Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm
5 Venerable Athanasius of Mount Athos	6 Virgin Martyr Lucy of Rome	7	8	9	10	11 Olga (Helen) Princess of Kiev Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm
12 Proclus & Hilary the Martyrs of Ancyra	13 Archangel Gabriel	14	15	16 Virgin Martyr Julia of Carthage Parish Council 6:15pm	17	18 Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm
19 Holy Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council	20 Prophet Elias (Elijah)	21	22 Mary Magdalene the Myrrh-bearer and Equal-to-the-Apostles	23	24 Great Martyr Christina of Tyre	25 Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm
26 Priest Jacob, Enlightener of Alaska	27	28	29	30	31 Righteous Joseph of Arimathea	

2020

Using Text Messaging for Online Giving at St. George Church

Hands-down ... offering by text is the fastest way to give!

- Text the word 'GIVE' to the church's text giving number (810-255-9080).
- **If it's your first time using text giving**, you'll be prompted to click a link directing you to the online giving page to complete a one-time registration.
 - Click "**SIGN IN**" and then "**REGISTER FOR AN ACCOUNT**" at the bottom of the page.
 - Complete contact information, then click "**REGISTER**".
 - Enter the *secure pin* that the system texts you.
 - Select the fund, then enter the donation amount and payment information before completing your gift.
 - Click "**SAVE PAYMENT**" to keep your payment information securely saved for future gifts.
- **To text a donation after the one-time registration**, you can give immediately without having to re-enter any of your information.
 - Simply text the *desired amount* and the *fund keyword* to the church's text giving number! (Example: Text '250 Offering' to make a \$250 donation to the Tithe and Pledge fund). You can find a list of the available funds by texting "**KEYWORD**".

OTHER TEXT COMMANDS:

EDIT – Make changes to your giving account and update contact information and/or update payment information.

REFUND – Need to refund your last gift? You must text "REFUND" within 15 minutes to refund the gift. If you realized the mistake after 15 minutes, contact the church or organization you are giving to for a refund.

KEYWORD – See a list of active keywords. Keywords are the fund names that the church has set up to direct gifts to the right category.

St. George Orthodox Church

5191 Lennon Road • Flint, Michigan 48507 • (810) 732-0720

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

V. Rev. Fr. Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Protodeacon Michael Bassett

Divine Services for the Lord's Day

- Saturday
Great Vespers and Sacrament of Repentance {Confession*} **5:00 PM**
- Sunday
Sacrament of Repentance {Confession*} **8:30 AM—9:30 AM**
Matins {Arabic & English} **8:50 AM**
Divine Liturgy **10:00 AM**
Church School follows Holy Communion from September to May

* Confessions may also take place by appointment with Father Joe during the week.

Major Feast Days (see Calendar)

**2019-20 Theme for
Church School,
Creative Festivals,
and our
Parish Life Conference**



Parish Council, Departments, & Organizations

PARISH COUNCIL • Fadi Rishmawi, Chairman 810-625-5790 or fadi19@msn.com
Parishioners may attend meetings and speak during "Parishioner Comments".

ALTAR SERVERS • Subdeacon George Gantous, Head Sacristan 810-714-7332 or gantousgeorge@yahoo.com

ALTAR SOCIETY • Theresa Farah, Coordinator 810-412-6041 or theyungwon@aol.com

CHOIR • Elias Abueita, Director 810-620-4897 or eliasabuaita.124@gmail.com

CHURCH SCHOOL • Janet Abueita, Director 810-771-7152 or coocita@aol.com

LADIES AUXILIARY • Manal Abuaita, President 810-659-5351

TEEN SOYO • Co-Presidents George Abuaita, ([gabuitasoyo@gmail.com](mailto:gabuaitasoyo@gmail.com) or 810-449-8834)
Hanna Abuaita (hanna.abuaita84@gmail.com)

USHERS • Jimmy David 810-835-9737 and Anwar Abueita 810-771-7152 or andydollar007@aol.com Coordinators

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • Subdeacon Salim Hanna, Parish Coordinator 810-875-3127 or salimh91@gmail.com

Office Hours

OFFICE MANAGER: Kelly Dotson kellysecstgeorge@gmail.com

Monday 10am-4pm, Tuesday 12:30-4pm, Wednesday 12:30-4pm, Thursday 10am-4pm, and Friday 10am-4pm
